

# VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

## VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*  
MICHAEL MEZEY, *Chairman*  
CAROLINA ZUMARAN-JONES, *Vice Chairman*  
PAULA DURBIN, *Secretary*  
KATHLEEN G. COOPER, *Treasurer*  
BRUCE R. PIRNIE, *Parliamentarian*  
MICHAEL J. DORSEY  
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*

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## APPROVED MINUTES

### PUBLIC SESSION

### FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL

Conducted via Zoom

April 12, 2021

#### ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor  
Michael Mezey, Chairman  
Carolina Zumaran-Jones, Vice Chairman  
Paula Durbin, Secretary  
Bruce Pirnie, Parliamentarian  
Michael Dorsey, Council Member  
Julian Mansfield, Village Manager  
Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager  
Anne O'Neil, Program Director  
Sabrina Hamm, Recording Secretary from The Professional Documents Service  
19 Additional Participants at Highest Court

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mezey called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

#### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

The Council received comments from the audience.

Ms. Zumaran-Jones and Ms. Durbin thanked the staff, Mayor White, and Chairman Mezey for their efforts to secure the vaccine for members of The Village, as well as Anne O'Neil for managing the registration process.

Ms. Durbin commented how well the Village archives have been organized thanks to the efforts of Clara Lovett.

**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor White announced that the shredding truck will return to the Village on Thursday, April 15, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The truck will park on Friendship Boulevard adjacent to the Village Center. Village residents are invited to take advantage of the free service.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Ms. Durbin moved, Mayor White seconded, to approve the minutes from the Council's Public Session held on March 8, 2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mayor White presented a financial summary for period ending March 31, 2021.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Report from the Community Advisory Committee:** Mayor White reported the Community Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 and discussed the following matters:

- (1) Four to five COVID cases were reported in The Elizabeth. Some residents of the Willoughby are refusing to wear masks.
- (2) The replacement for the Giant grocery store has been tentatively announced as Amazon Fresh.
- (3) Owners of the Chevy Chase office building planted hedges to prevent people from taking shortcuts through the grass, which causes the landscaping to look unsightly and poses potential danger to pedestrians.
- (4) Willard Towers has increased advertising and decreased rents, indicating a possible increase in vacancies.
- (5) Use of the dumpster outside Willard Towers appears to adhere to the County rules regarding the duration it may be outside and the avoidance of evening hours.
- (6) Kudos were offered for replacement of sod along many of the Village curbs.
- (7) The staff was asked to look at a dark stain on the street in front of Highland House West, apparently oil residue left by a long-standing dumpster.

Once established, the date of the next Community Advisory Committee meeting will be posted in the newsletter.

**Report from Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights:** Mayor White reported the CCCFH met on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Discussions were held concerning the following matters:

- (1) Thrive Montgomery 2050.
- (2) ZTA 2007 (the housing zoning amendment).

The next meeting of the CCCFH will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Programs**

Ms. O'Neil reported online classes, tours, lectures, and tutorials continue, and provided a summary of those offerings.

**Update to the Community — Village Response to the Corona Virus:**

Mr. Mansfield recognized Anne O'Neil for her work to schedule the vaccination clinic. Ms. O'Neil then reported on the COVID clinic held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Giant Pharmacy is aware that the Village would like to schedule another vaccination clinic, which will be arranged. It was noted that Montgomery County has ceased COVID testing at the Wisconsin Place recreation center, as very few people were getting tested and the County requires the staff's presence at vaccine clinics. The testing flyer has been removed from the Village website. In its place, a link has been posted that allows people to search for nearby testing sites.

**Mr. Dorsey moved that the Council advocate for the staff to work with state and County elected and appointed health officials to develop a comprehensive plan to vaccinate all age groups within the Village as soon as possible. The motion failed for lack of a second.**

Ms. Zumaran-Jones reported that the State of Maryland recently announced the eligibility of persons 16 years of age to receive a COVID vaccination.

**Discussion — Village Council Election Procedures; Appointment of Election Judges:**

Mr. Mansfield reported the following action items associated with the upcoming Council election: Planning for in-person voting with assistance from The League of Women Voters; appointing election judges; planning a Candidates' Forum with assistance from The League of Women Voters; swearing in the successful candidates; establishing a ballot drop box; and printing and publishing the candidates' statements.

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, to approve the Village Council election procedure as presented by the Village Manager. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Mayor White moved, Ms. Zumaran-Jones seconded, to appoint Bill Corey and Phyllis Meltzer as judges for the 2021 Village Council election and to appoint Andrew Friedson as the Chief Judge. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Mr. Mansfield will secure guidelines from The League of Women Voters or another organization about holding a Candidates' Forum, particularly with respect to receiving questions from the public in advance of or during the meeting. The Council candidates will submit to Mr. Mansfield their availability during the period of April 20 through April 30, 2021, so the date for holding the Candidates' Forum can be determined.**

**Report from Infrastructure Committee — Tree Assessment by Arborist:**

Nick Scaletta, Arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts, performed an assessment of all trees within Friendship Heights. Mr. Scaletta recommended the removal of five trees, of which Mr. Pirnie provided photographs: two river birch trees near the Village Center; one sugar maple tree in Humphrey Park near South Park Avenue; and two street trees on Hills

Plaza. Mr. Scaletta submitted a proposal to remove the five trees. Because the proposal exceeded \$5,000, the Village Manager will issue a solicitation for bids on the tree removal project. The Council has already approved a proposal from the arborist to prune eight trees as recommended in the assessment at a cost of \$4,095.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and Vote — Village Audit:**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mayor White seconded, to approve a one-year renewal of the contract with Lindsey Associates to perform the FY-21 audit at a cost of \$11,300. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**Discussion and Vote — Resolution to Montgomery County Council to Increase Municipal Tax Duplication Payments:**

**The Council unanimously agreed that Mayor White sign on behalf of the Friendship Heights Village Council the letter to the County Council regarding increased municipal tax duplication payments.**

**Discussion and Vote — Proposals to Replace a Section of Gutter at the Village Center:**

**Mr. Dorsey moved, Mr. Pirnie seconded, to approve a contract with Boyd Roofing to replace a section of gutter located outside the auditorium of the Village Center at a cost of \$8,821. The motion carried unanimously (6-0-0).**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business before the Council, Ms. Durbin moved, Mr. Dorsey seconded, for adjournment of the meeting at 8:38 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Paula Durbin